



Committee on Education and School System Matters
City Council Office 10/28/25

The Committee on Education and School System Matters convened on Tuesday October 28, 2025, at 5:15 pm in the City Council office. The purpose of the meeting was to conduct interviews with 2 candidates for reappointment for Watertown Cable Access (WCAC) Board of Directors. Present were Emily Izzo, chair; Nicole Gardner, vice chair and John Airasian, secretary.

Matthew McCarthy -Has his degree in Communications and understands the importance of WCATV. He sees how much the school department uses WCATV and knows how vital it is not only to the students as well as the residents of Watertown. As he settles into his initial term on the board, he will provide a source of oversight as well as being a valuable resource using his time in the field as experience to help guide the board. Mr. McCarthy feels a couple things he would like to see improved is outreach to multi-lingual students/families as well as promoting the News coverage that WCATV provides.

Action Item – Councilor Airasian made a motion to recommend the City Council approve the appointment of Matthew McCarthy to the Watertown Cable Access Board of Directors with a term expiring September 15, 2028. Motion was seconded by Councilor Izzo and passed 2-0. (Councilor Gardner was not present for this interview)

David Stokes – Mr. Stokes would be entering his 4th term on the WCATV Board. He has been a valuable member and feels he will continue to bring his experience to not only the Board, but the staff as well. He has watched staff that started at WCATV grow into their role and become well trained, valuable employees. He has been working closely with the Executive Director on defining a proper budgeting process. Mr. Stokes believes this is vital as we are losing 10% of cable subscribers each quarter to streaming services. There is a serious need to find ways to generate income as the subscribers go down, so do the fees we collect from Comcast. He is hopeful the outreach and fundraising coordinator will be able to identify new revenue.

Action Item – Councilor Airasian made a motion to recommend the City Council approve the reappointment of David Stokes to the Watertown Cable Access Board of Directors with a term expiring September 15, 2028. The motion was seconded by Councilor Gardener and passed 3-0.

Meeting adjourned at 5:50

Minutes prepared by John M. Airasian

Emily Izzo,
Chair

Nicole Gardner,
Vice Chair

John M. Airasian,
Secretary